

ROBERT J. SIM, 1881-1955

Robert J. Sim, naturalist, antiquarian, one time contributor to the *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* and entomologist of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture died in the McKinley Memorial Hospital, Trenton, New Jersey, on November 26, 1955, after a brief illness. Mr. Sim was born at Geddes, a suburb of Syracuse, New York, August 16, 1881, his parents being Eli F. and Ruby Ayer Sim. About a year after his birth, the family moved to Jefferson, Ashtabula County, Ohio, and it was there that his interest in natural history was fostered by his mother who was a naturalist and a writer of articles on natural history. Along with his school work, the young man took private art lessons. For two years, Mr. Sim attended the Cleveland School of Design and later enrolled at Ohio State University, where he studied for the most part, only subjects in which he was interested. At that period he made the illustrations for a book on botany by Dr. E. N. Transeau. On November 28, 1919, he married Mary A. Bechtol of Ashtabula, Ohio, and the following summer was spent at Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks, where he did illustrations for the New York State College of Forestry.

During a period of two years, 1921-1923, Mr. Sim was the artist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. From January 1, 1924 to December 31, 1928 he was employed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture on Japanese beetle work. From January 1, 1929 to July 1, 1934 he was employed as an agent by the Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, working as an artist, photographer and entomologist, at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory, Moorestown, New Jersey. From July 1, 1934 until his death he was employed by the Division of Plant Industry of the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture, where his knowledge of entomology, and his artistic and photographic abilities were used and appreciated.

Robert J. Sim was one of a small group of old-time naturalists, who have all but disappeared. He had a lively interest in plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and insects and his knowledge of the

many common forms and their habits was extensive. As a result, he was an ideal companion in the field. He was also a skilled artist and photographer and his illustrations adorn many publications.

Of late years, Mr. Sim had expanded his interests to include what might be called rural antiquities. He was interested in early New Jersey pottery and in early New Jersey industries, particularly those connected with farming and rural life both inside and out of the home. During the course of these activities, he made many friends and acquaintances all over the State. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture published his work on old farm houses and vanishing phases of rural life, and the New Jersey Agricultural Society his "Pages From the Past of Rural New Jersey." Just before his death his last work appeared on charcoal burning, in collaboration with Harry B. Weiss. In addition Mr. Sim was an ardent collector of various kinds of early tools used on farms and in farm households.

As a collaborator with Mr. Sim, and as a recipient of his help in many ways over the years, I was in a position to become fully acquainted with his ability in various fields and to recognize and appreciate his varied talents. For the past year we worked closely on a history of early gristmills in New Jersey. Once actively interested in a subject, Mr. Sim pursued it enthusiastically and intensely to the exclusion of everything else. With his death I have lost an agreeable companion upon whom I depended for many things, and also a valued friend. Mr. Sim is survived by his wife, Mary B. Sim of Yardville Heights, New Jersey.—HARRY B. WEISS.

Papers by Robert J. Sim

ENTOMOLOGY

- Five lace-bug species not previously recorded from New Jersey. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, **44**: 280. 1936.
- Five sericine beetles. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, **40**: 379-383. 1932.
- Hesperia larva defoliating Kudzu vine. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, **44**: 316. 1936.
- New Jersey lace-bug notes. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, **45**: 402. 1937.
- Note on the giant swallow-tail butterfly in New Jersey. *Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc.*, **45**: 402. 1937.
- Phyllophaga (Scarabæidæ) of the United States and Canada. *Circ.* 145, *N. J. Dept. Agric.*, 60 p., 6 figs., 12 pl. May, 1928.

Scarabæidæ, Coleoptera: Observations on species unrecorded or little-known in New Jersey. Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc. 38: 139-147. 1930.

ORNITHOLOGY

The common loon. Bird-Lore, 25,(3).

Notes on the Holbeell grebe. Wilson Bull., 16(3).

POTTERY

Banded cream ware. Antiques, 48(2): 82-83, August, 1945. Illustrated.
The Cheesquake potteries (with Arthur W. Clement). Antiques 45(3): 122-125, March, 1944. Illustrated.

RURAL ANTIQUITIES

Charcoal-burning in New Jersey from early times to the present, (with Harry B. Weiss). New Jersey Agricultural Society, Trenton, N. J., 62 p. 1955. Illustrated.

Pages from the past of rural New Jersey. New Jersey Agricultural Society, Trenton, N. J., 121 p. 1949. Illustrated.

Some old farms and farm houses in New Jersey. Circ. 299, N. J. Dept. Agric., 53 p. Dec., 1938.

Some vanishing phases of rural life in New Jersey. Circ. 327, N. J. Dept. Agric., 60 p. June, 1941.

Some Works Containing Illustrations in Color, Wash and Line
By Robert J. Sim*

ENTOMOLOGICAL

Characters useful in distinguishing larvae of *Popillia japonica*, etc. U.S.D.A. Circ. 334. 1934.

An Ecological Study of the Hemiptera of the Cranberry Lake Region of New York. Osborn & Drake. N. Y. St. Col. Forestry. Tech. Pub. 16. 1922.

Heteroptera of Eastern North America. W. S. Blatchley. 1926.

The Japanese Beetle. Smith & Hadley. U.S.D.A. Circ. 363.

A Little Gateway to Science, Hexapod Stories. Edith M. Patch. Atlantic Monthly Press.

A Meadow Caterpillar. E. M. Patch. Me. Agric. Exp. Sta. Bull. 302.

Parasites of *Popillia japonica*. Clausen & King. U.S.D.A. Bull. 1429.

BOTANICAL

Science of Plant Life by E. N. Transeau.

ORNITHOLOGICAL

Bird Stories. E. M. Patch. Atlantic Monthly Press.

Birds of Alabama. A. H. Howell. U.S.D.A. and Dept. Game & Fisheries of Alabama. 1924. 13 plates.

* Supplied by Mrs. Robert J. Sim.

- Birds of the Katmia Region. J. S. Hine. Ohio Jour. Sci. 10:(8).
 A Bob White Covey. Dr. Lynds Jones. Wilson Bull. 10(4).
 Distribution and Migration of N. A. Gulls and Allies. Wells W. Cooks.
 U.S.D.A. Bull. 619.
 Food Habits of Seven Species of American Shoal-Water Ducks. Douglas
 C. Mabbott. U.S.D.A. Bull. 862. 1920.
 Food Habits of Some Winter Bird Visitants. U.S.D.A. Bull. 1249. 1924.
 Food Habits of the Thrushes of U. S. U.S.D.A. Bull. 280.
 Food Habits of the Vireos. U.S.D.A. Bull. 1355.
 Some Common Birds of S. E. United States. Beal, McAtee & Kalmbach.
 U.S.D.A. Farmers Bull. 755.
 Some Common Game, Aquatic and Rapacious Birds. McAtee and Beal.
 U.S.D.A. Farmers Bull. 497.
 Food Habits of the Swallows. Beal. U.S.D.A. Bull. 619.
 Food of Some Well-known Birds of Forest, Farm and Garden. Beal and
 McAtee. U.S.D.A. Farmers Bull. 506.

MAMMALS

- Laws Relating to Fur-Bearing Animals. (Cover design). Lawyer and
 Earnshaw. U.S.D.A. Farmers Bull. 1238. 1921.

GENERAL

- First Lessons in Nature Study. E. M. Patch. The MacMillan Co. 1926.
 Game Laws for 1918. (Cover design). U.S.D.A. Bull. 1010.
 The Outdoor Heritage of New Jersey. N. J. Fish and Game Comm. 1937.

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Mr. Irving Huntington, to make Mr. William P. Comstock an Honorary Member of the New York Entomological Society. The citation reads as follows:

“William P. Comstock has for many years been an excellent student of West Indian zoogeography, entomological bibliography, and an outstanding authority on the classification of the Lycaenidae and Heliconidae. He has also been for many years a Research Associate of the Department of Insects and Spiders of the American Museum of Natural History. He was Vice-President of the New York Entomological Society in 1942 and its President in 1943”. The proposal was passed without dissent.

The paper of the evening was given by Dr. Lucy Clausen on “Insects and People”. Dr. Clausen envisioned cave man with having to face two economic problems, first cockroaches in his cave and secondly, dermestid beetles in his spare loin cloth. In the course of history man has used his insect associates to his own advantage. Dr. Clausen enumerated several facets of this part of the story. Insects have been used, a) for therapeutic value, b) as a basis of commerce, c) as part of his religious belief and rites, d) as objects and contestants in sports, and e) as laboratory experimental animals. Dr. Clausen discussed the origin of insects from the point of view